

GOHSEP ON THE LINE...



NOVEMBER 2008

ELEVATED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 4th

Office Holiday/ Election Day

November 5th

COOP Endeavor Workshop
Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9

November 5th

COOP Endeavor Workshop
Region 6

November 5th - 7th

The Homeland Security Exercise
and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)
Training Course

November 6th

COOP Endeavor Workshop
Region 8

November 6th

COOP Endeavor Workshop
Region 7

November 7th

GOHSEP/ LSP
1st Annual Tailgate Cook-off

November 11th

Office Holiday Veterans Day

CALENDAR, see Page 7

A MESSAGE FROM GOHSEP DIRECTOR MARK COOPER

As we near the end of hurricane season, I commend you all for your dedication to the safety and welfare of the people of Louisiana. The months of August and September proved to be very challenging and busy. Louisiana and its people were faced, once again, with the challenges of not one but two natural disasters.

Despite those challenges, there were successes. For the first time in the state's history, the entire coast of Louisiana was threatened and local officials called for mandatory evacuations. Nearly two million people were evacuated. State Police executed an Emergency Evacuation Plan which consisted of contra-flow operations and ensured the safety of individuals along the evacuation route. Lives are saved when local, State and Federal partners work together.

The Louisiana National Guard aided in the evacuation of thousands of people at the Union Passenger terminal in New Orleans. The Guard also assisted in evacuation of patients from local hospitals.

The Department of Transportation and Development also arranged for coach buses and para-transit vehicles to pick up people at pre-determined parish pick-up points. For Hurricane Ike, coach buses moved citizens to shelters in Shreveport, Monroe and Alexandria.

The National Guard and State Police also provided security at shelter sites throughout the state.

The state was also instrumental in getting generators to hospitals, gas stations and grocery stores right after the storms hit. Thousands of generators were acquired before electrical power grids were restored.

Wildlife and Fisheries aided in search and rescue and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry assisted in the evacuation of pets. That, too, was a success.

Continued...

During Gustav and Ike, the state also tested out a new mobile radio system which allows for better communication among first responders because there's more extensive coverage. Despite a few glitches, we consider this new system a success.

While many lessons were learned from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we continue to learn. It will only improve our response to future storms.

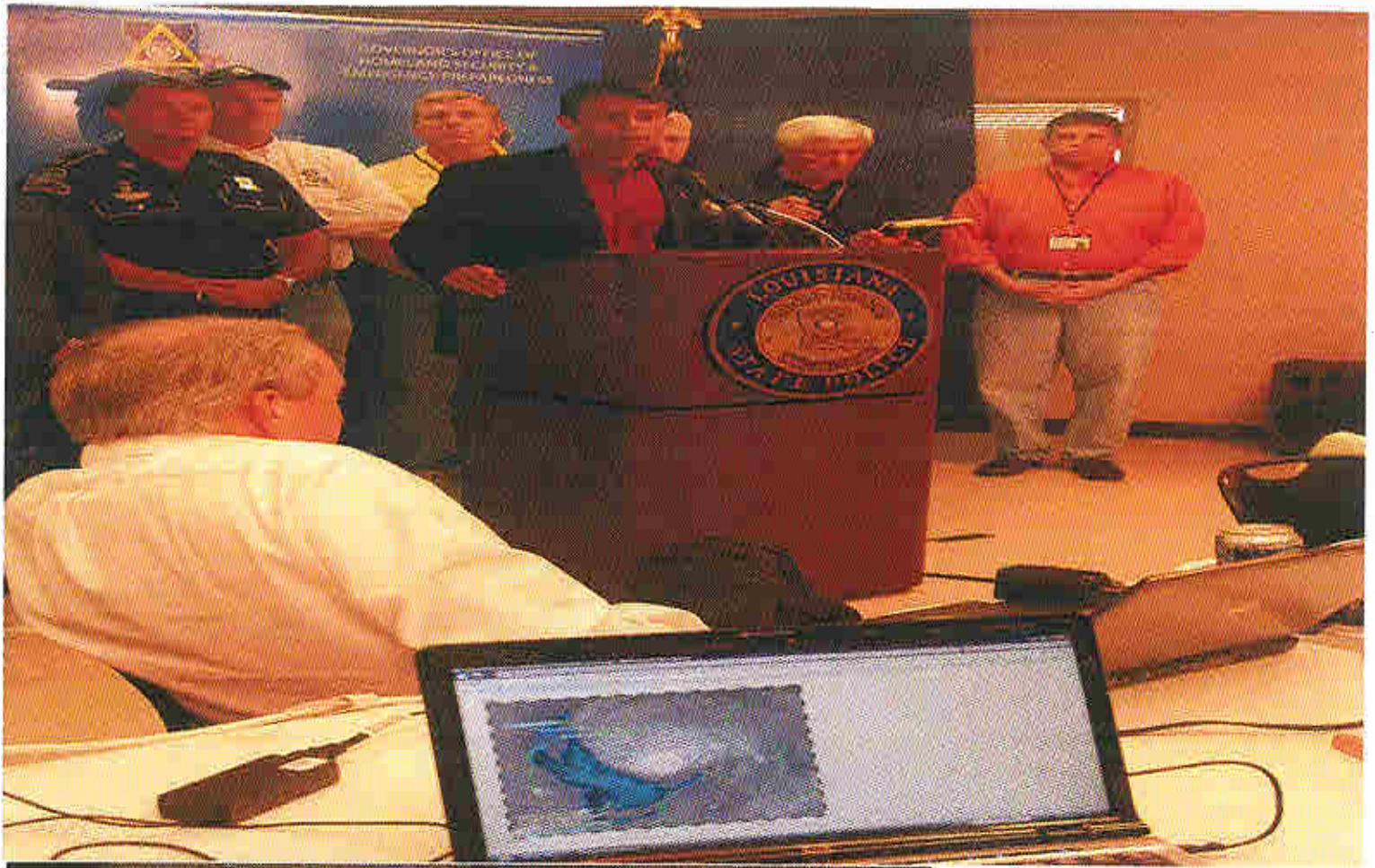
While the response effort is ongoing, the After Action Review (AAR) process is underway. GOHSEP officials recently met with parish and state leaders to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our response during the recent storms. And as we look toward the future, GOHSEP pledges to continue to educate the public on all hazards. And we will continue to provide support and guidance to parish governments.

Mark A. Cooper

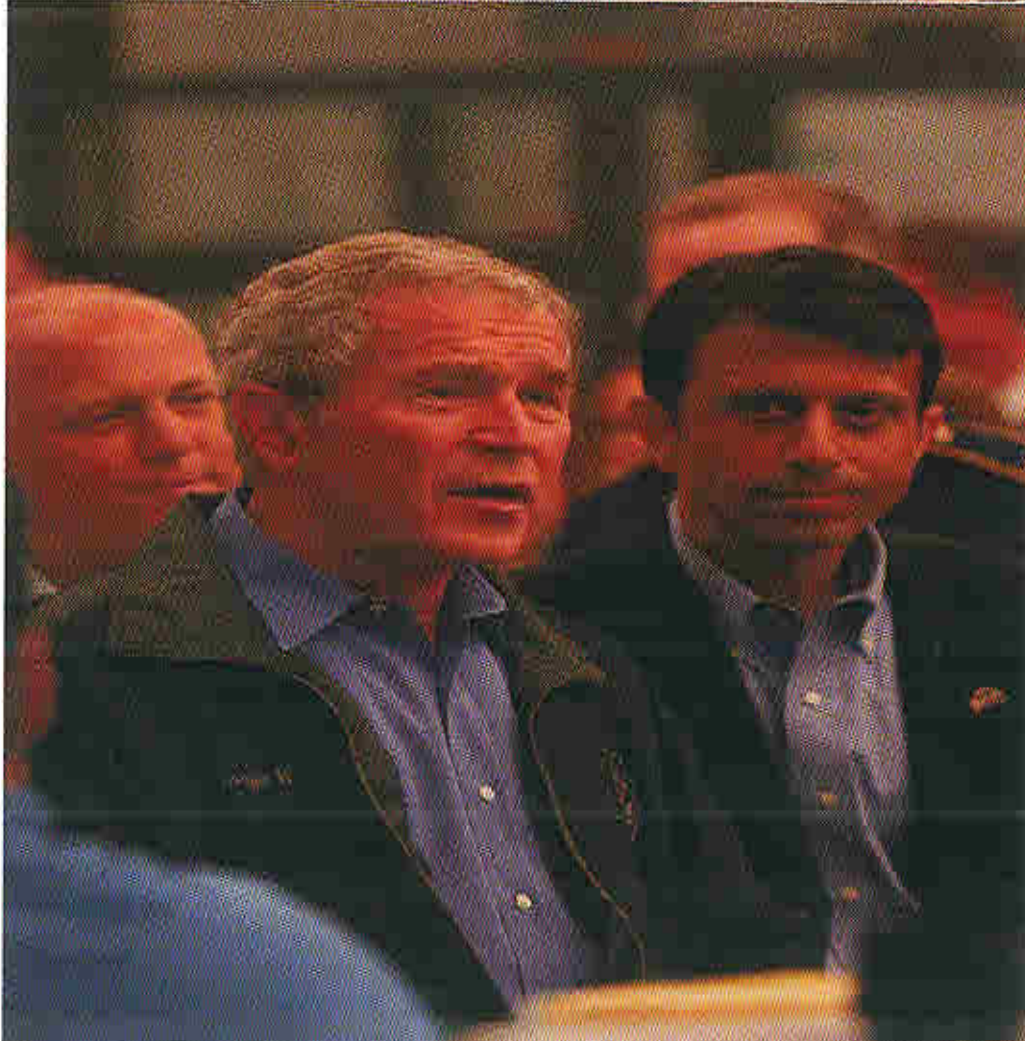
REMEMBERING THE STORMS



The State EOC with all the hard workers during Hurricanes Gustave and Ike.



Top: Governor Bobby Jindal, Mark Cooper, GOHSEP Director, Col. Mike Edmonson, LSP, Alan Levine, DHH Secretary, Sen. Mike Walsworth and Buddy Caldwell, Attorney General giving a press conference during Hurricane Gustav.



Bottom: President George W. Bush visiting GOHSEP on September 2, 2008.

The President met with Governor Jindal's Unified Command Staff. He also made a speech to federal and state employees on the floor of the State Emergency Operations Center.



Top: Governor Bobby Jindal along with Secretary Chertoff in Homua.

Bottom: First Lady, Suprya Jindal passes out commodities to citizens.



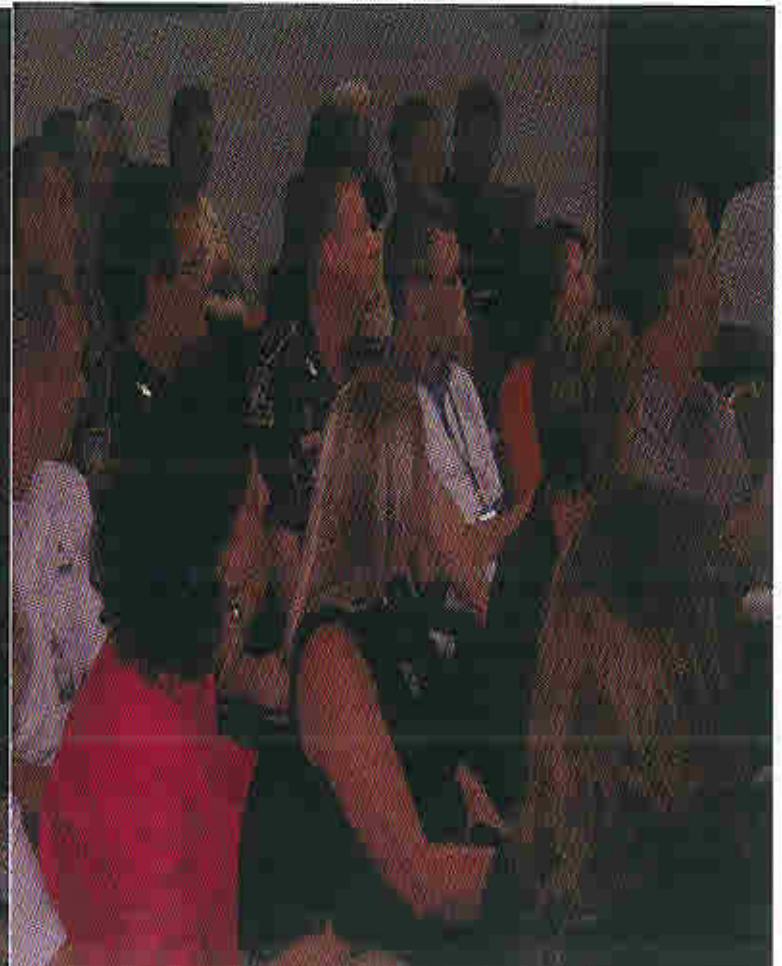
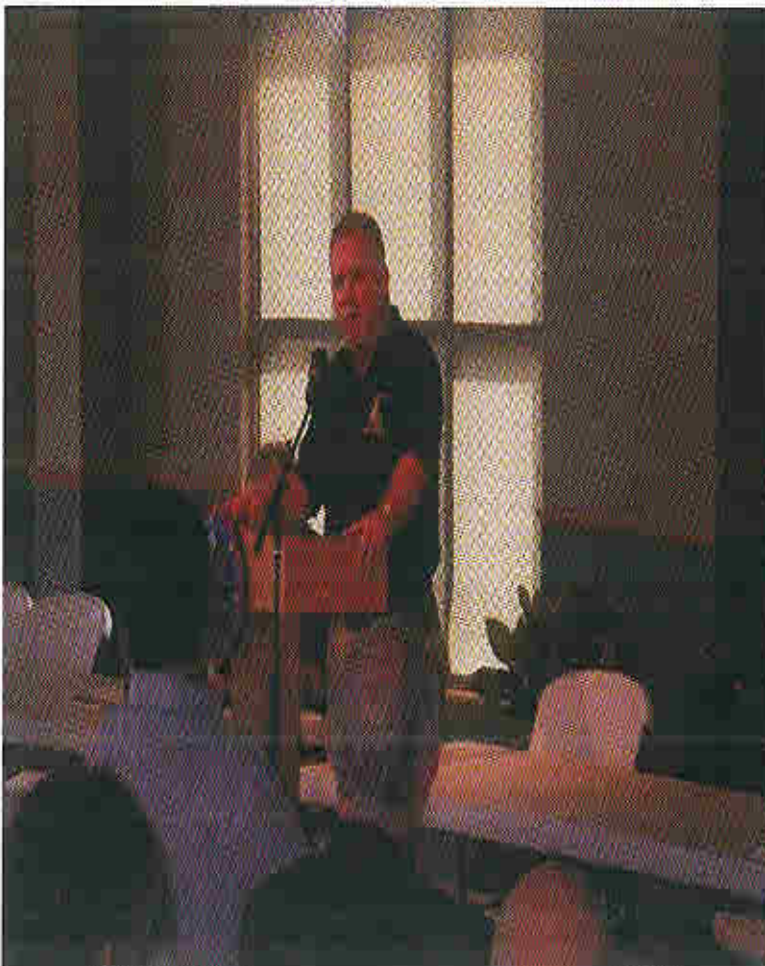
AFTER ACTION REVIEW (AAR) FOR HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE

In recent weeks, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) in conjunction with Parish Officials conducted a series of meetings across the state. These After Action Reviews were conducted to review Emergency Management's response to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The findings of these meetings will be used to further enhance State and Parish Emergency Operations Plans. Meeting participants included representatives of State Agencies and Parish Authorities ranging from Parish Presidents, Sheriffs, Parish Emergency Management Directors and others.

These meeting were productive and allowed for an exchange of ideas between Parish and State authorities. Overall, Louisiana's response to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike were successful, however, several areas of improvement were identified by participants. Major areas for improvement included: Better tracking of evacuees; more information along evacuation routes such as fuel locations; and properly resourcing in-state shelter operations. GOHSEP in conjunction with the Department of Social Services, American Red Cross, Parish Officials, and other stakeholders are working towards enhancing Louisiana's capability to support in-state sheltering.

Recommendations based on the findings of the After Action Review will be used by State and Parish Emergency Management Officials to enhance planning and response capabilities leading into next year's hurricane season. The lessons learned from Gustav and Ike will not only benefit Louisiana's response to hurricanes, but enhance Louisiana's ability to respond to a variety of emergencies.

This information will be compiled and disseminated to local emergency management officials throughout the state by the end of the year.



LSU Presented the "Spirit of Louisiana" Award



The second "Spirit of Louisiana" award was presented to LSU on September 27, 2008 during the LSU/Mississippi State game.

Governor Bobby Jindal, Major General Bennett Landreneau with the Louisiana National Guard, GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper, State Police Col. Mike Edmonson and Director of Louisiana Recovery Authority Paul Rainwater along with LSU President Emeritus Dr. William Jenkins, President of the LSU System Dr. John Lombardi, LSU Chancellor Mike Martin and Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Sally Clausen were in attendance.

The Governor commended all first responders, office of emergency preparedness directors and their staff for the work they did and sacrifices they made during recent Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and three years ago when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed parts of our state.

During Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, a triage was set up at the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. That's where thousands of sick and disabled people were cared for.

The Governor presented LSU with a painting by local artist and former LSU football player Jack Jaubert. The painting commemorates the hard work and dedication of medical professionals, LSU staff and volunteers along with the dedicated men and women of all of our first responders. The Governor thanks the entire university system for its support in the states' time of need. During the most recent hurricanes, the higher education community also provided more than 30-thousand meals to people in affected areas.

Office of Interoperability Established

As a result of Act 797 (SB788), the Office of Interoperability has been established within the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. The Act also creates an Assistant Deputy Director of Interoperability, and establishes under the Unified Command Group; the Interoperability Subcommittee.

The Interoperability Subcommittee, which will officially retain the name of Statewide Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC), will be comprised of 20 members consisting of six first responder associations, five state agencies and each of the nine regional representatives. This multi disciplinary and multi jurisdictional committee will lead the state toward progress in advancing emergency responder communications capabilities as they envision infrastructure, governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises to support a statewide system accessible to all local and state first responders, with capacity and capability to transmit emergency communications across spectrum from daily usage to a surge during an unknown catastrophic event.

The Governor and Legislature have appropriated for FY08/09 over \$38 million for interoperability related expenses. This funding will be used for the four full time interoperability positions, statewide system maintenance costs, the installation of a 3rd master site in north Louisiana, and the acquisition of (41) 700MHz voice repeaters, which will provide 95% mobile radio coverage throughout central and north Louisiana and 95% portable radio coverage in the southern areas of the state. Finally, over \$8 million has been allocated for the purchase of subscriber units and/or consoles for local and state agencies.

Achieving statewide interoperability for Louisiana's emergency responders is a massive undertaking, and together we will continue making efforts to improve interoperable communications systems and foster cooperative relationships among all first responders as Louisiana leads the nation in achieving true communications interoperability with a shared system providing a more efficient, and effective emergency response team for the citizens of our State.

GOHSEP is pleased to welcome Brant Mitchell as the Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Interoperability and Christina Dayries as the Communication Systems Manager. Brant is anticipating on adding two additional interoperability positions within the next 30 days.

Please visit the interoperability website at <http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/interop.htm> for the most up to date information regarding interoperable communications and to obtain copies of policies, procedures and plans.

Calendar continued....

November 13th - 14th
State Shelter Summit

November 18th
Regional Directors Meeting
Washington Parish

November 18th - 19th
ICS-300
Region 7

November 19th - 20th
ICS-300
Ouachita Parish EOC

November 20th - 21st
ICS-400
Region 7

November 27th - 28th
Office Holiday/Thanksgiving

POC:

Lauren Stevens
Training Branch Manager
225.925.7507

Amber Calvert
EM Training Officer
225.925.1706

Jodi Harvey
HS Training Officer
225.925.7699

Emergency Management Structure Established for State of Louisiana

A bill signed into law by Governor Bobby Jindal will significantly enhance and strengthen emergency management in the State of Louisiana. It establishes a more proactive and strategic Unified Command Group (UCG). Currently, the UCG, under the direction of the Governor as the Unified Commander, is only activated in response to an emergency or during the annual disaster exercise. The new law requires the UCG to meet quarterly, to examine major emergency management and homeland security issues impacting the State and develop solutions.

The Act also establishes a sub-committee structure that gives local government a permanent voice in the strategic direction of the State with regard to emergency management. The subcommittees include: regional parish directors, first responders and Interoperability.

These sub-committees are permanent and cannot be dismantled without an act by the legislature and signature of the Governor. Other sub-committees can be established to address additional issues or policy. The first meeting of the UCG will be held in September. The sub-committees are being formed and will be convened after August 15, 2008 when the law goes into effect.

Senate Bill 788 was sponsored by Senator Michael Walsworth. He is the Co-Chairman of the Joint Select Committee

KATRINA/RITA UPDATE

From housing displaced families to repairing and rebuilding public buildings to mitigating structures against future disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) have been engaged partners in Louisiana's recovery process.

Under FEMA's Public Assistance Program, **\$7.1 billion** in federal funds have been approved to help communities recover and to support state and local rebuilding. In the past year alone the amount of eligible Public Assistance dollars has increased nearly **\$2 billion**, with **\$1 billion** committed to long-term rebuilding projects. To date Louisiana has paid out more than **\$3.7 billion** in Public Assistance funds to local applicants.

In March, Louisiana launched the Express Pay System, a program designed to reduce the wait time for local governments seeking reimbursement for rebuilding projects through FEMA's Public Assistance program. The average wait time for reimbursement is now **8 days**, prior to the Express Pay System applicants were waiting **45 to 60 days**.

Since the launch of the Express Pay System the state has invested more than **\$312 million**, paying on more than **1500** Reimbursement Request Forms.

Last year, the state invested **63 percent** more in rebuilding dollars than in the previous year. In the first two-years after Hurricane Katrina the majority of Public Assistance funds were committed to recovery projects such as debris removal and emergency protective measures.

So far, FEMA has granted more than **\$258.2 million** in hazard mitigation grant funding to the state for **161** projects. Working in tandem with Louisiana's Road Home Program, **\$96.9** million of this funding will help elevate nearly **3,000** homes devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These funds were obligated as a grant to the Office of Community Development and are the first in a series that will help finance elevating or reconstructing more than **20,000** flood-prone structures throughout Louisiana.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER OIL SPILL

Oil Spill in Mississippi River

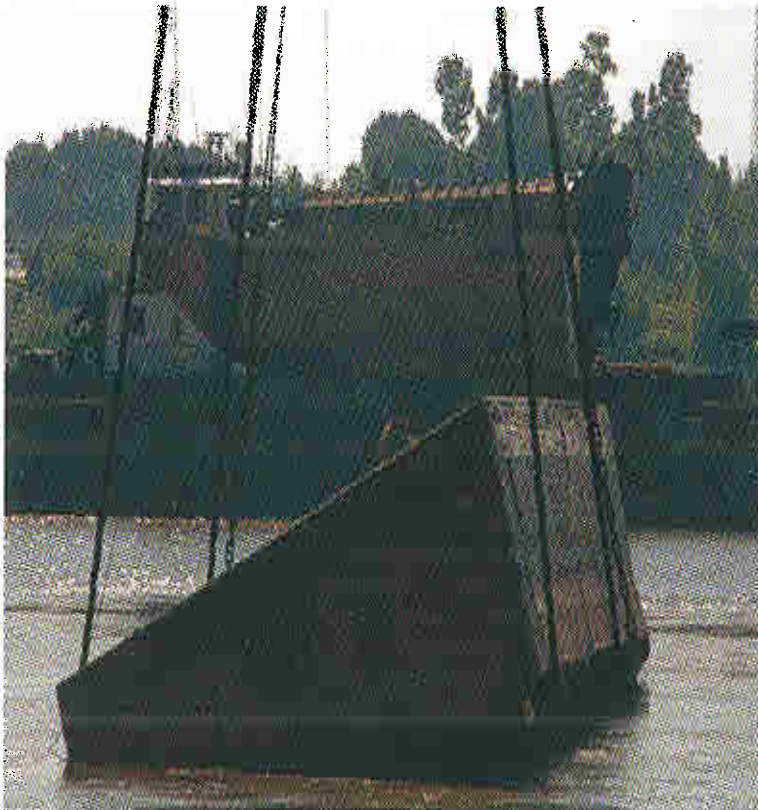
On July 23, 2008, a tanker collided with a fuel barge in the Mississippi River by the Crescent City Connection Bridge. The barge split in half and the incident resulted in 375,000 gallons of oil to spill in the river. Water intake valves were shut off in four parishes (Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and Jefferson) while it was determined whether the water was safe to drink.

Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes requested assistance from GOHSEP. During a two day period, GOHSEP sent 45,000 liters of bottled water to those areas. Parish officials disbursed the water to residents. GOHSEP also worked closely with other agencies to update the media on water quality and availability, environmental issues and the integrity of the Crescent City Connection to which the barge was anchored.

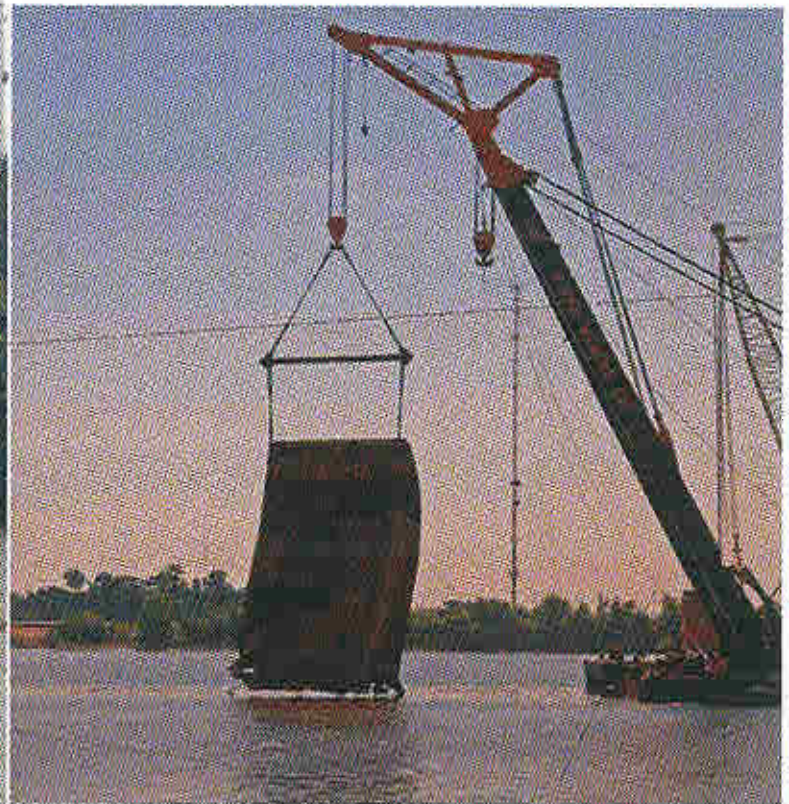
GOHSEP also provided 50 hand-held radios to Orleans Parish and dispatched its Mobile Command Unit (MCU) vehicle with personnel to St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes to assist with communications efforts.



The stern section of the barge is raised from the Mississippi River in New Orleans Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008. The bow section, raised August 9, can be seen in the foreground on the work barge awaiting the stern. Skimming



The fuel barge is placed aboard the carrier barge as salvage operations of the wreck on the Mississippi River at New Orleans come to an end on Aug. 9.



The bow section of the fuel barge DM 932 is lifted out of the Mississippi River August 9, 2008 during salvage operations in New Orleans.

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Military Recognition

Lt. Alan Dun and Lt. Jeffrey Giering of the Louisiana National Guard were recognized at GOHSEP on Thursday, August 14.

Lt. Alan Dunn

Lt Alan Dunn is a 1LT in the Louisiana National Guard. He is married to Angie Dunn and they reside in Dutchtown.

Lt Dunn was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq for over a year with the HSC 769th Engineer Battalion, Baghdad, Iraq, while deployed he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Louisiana War Cross, and has served in the Louisiana National Guard for over 18 years.

Lt. Dunn has been assigned as a communications liaison with GOHSEP since October of 2002. He worked in Operations for Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, and Rita, after Katrina as a liaison for GOHSEP between affected parishes and FEMA. Once GOHSEP fell under the Governor's Office he was reassigned to the Louisiana National Guard Tactical Center (TAC). He is currently employed with the Louisiana National Guard Tactical Center (TAC) as an Information Management Officer, responsible for all technology in the TAC for Situational Awareness and communications.

Lt. Dunn brings a wealth of experience to the Military Support to Civil Authorities mission here at GOHSEP.

Lt Jeffrey Giering

Lt. Jeffrey Giering is a 1LT in the Louisiana National Guard. He is married to Melissa Giering and they have two (2) sons, Paker and Tayler, and resides in Watson.

Lt. Giering was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq for over a year with the HSC 769th Engineer Battalion, Future Operations / Battle Captain (in the Operations Section), and has served the Louisiana National Guard for over 5 years.

Lt. Giering has been with GOHSEP since March of 2002 and worked every disaster since June 2002, with special assignments to Orleans, St., Bernard and Plaquemines Parish for the 6 months following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He currently works for GOHSEP and is assigned to the Disaster Recovery Division as an Assistant Section Chief - Mitigation, Disaster Recovery Division. His previous duties at GOHSEP include: Environmental Officer, Grants Administrator and Grants Administrator Supervisor - all within Mitigation/Disaster Recovery Division.

Lt. Giering is a Katrina veteran, having worked in Recovery and preliminary damage assessment as well as working with FEMA and Parishes that were devastated by the storms. He also oversaw the operations of the Overwatch, ensuring the Governor's Overwatch was mission ready. Jeffrey brings a wealth of experience to Recovery at the Joint Field Office on behalf of GOHSEP.

Louisiana's Homeland Security Grant Application Scores in the top 98% of all Submitted Applications

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has notified GOHSEP that the State's FY-08 Homeland Security Application has been approved and will be awarding Louisiana \$16,110,000 for the State Homeland Security Grant Program. DHS convened a peer review panel consisting of Federal, State and local first responders in April 2008 to determine the effectiveness of each State's and Territories' application. Louisiana's overall application was scored very high, scoring in the top 98% of all 56 State and territory applications. The panel commented that the application was "very strong and well constructed." Four of the State's seven investment justifications scored in the top 90% of all investments submitted. They include Interoperable Communications (top 99%), Implement Risk Management Framework to Secure the State's critical infrastructure/key resources (CI/KR) (top 98%), Gulf State Common Operating Picture (top 95%) and Citizen Preparedness and Planning (top 93%).

For the FY-08 application, Louisiana also partnered with the States of Alabama and Mississippi to create a Common Gulf Coast Operating Picture utilizing the Google Earth Enterprise solution. As a result of this collaboration, all three States received a bonus resulting in a 5% increase in overall funding for the three States. The peer review panel commented that the investment justification is "a good regional interoperable vision" and Louisiana's "large scope and scale of the project translated into their bonus score as well as the clear relationship between the risk to the State and the ability of the project objectives to mitigate that risk." With approval of this investment, State and local agencies will be able to expand the capabilities of Virtual Louisiana by procuring additional imagery, 3D models of critical infrastructure and Geographical Information Systems data. With the multi-state investment and the use of a common platform in all three states, Louisiana will be able to share this data and imagery with MS and AL.

Local and State agencies who receive funding for the FY-08 State Homeland Security Grant Program will be able to utilize this funding in the following areas:

Interoperable Communications

This investment will support the following three key activities: 1) increase coverage and capacity of the Statewide P25 System; 2) procure subscriber units and IP based dispatch consoles; and 3) expand or implement a Wi-Fi environment for first responders.

Implement Risk Management to Secure the State's CI/KR

This investment will support the following four key activities: 1) enhanced planning of the State's CI/KR plans; 2) establishing the interdependencies and relationships of the State's CI/KR; 3) continued hardening of the State's CI/KR and 4) sustainment of the State's Cyber Security Infrastructure Protection.

Metropolitan Medical Response

This investment will support the following four key activities: 1) expand public & private partnerships increasing priority capabilities for healthcare response; 2) enhance collaborative & comprehensive healthcare mutual aid capabilities; 3) strengthen planning & mitigation capacities specifically for mass prophylaxis and surge; and 4) ensure integration of community partners in information sharing activities.

Citizen Preparedness and Planning

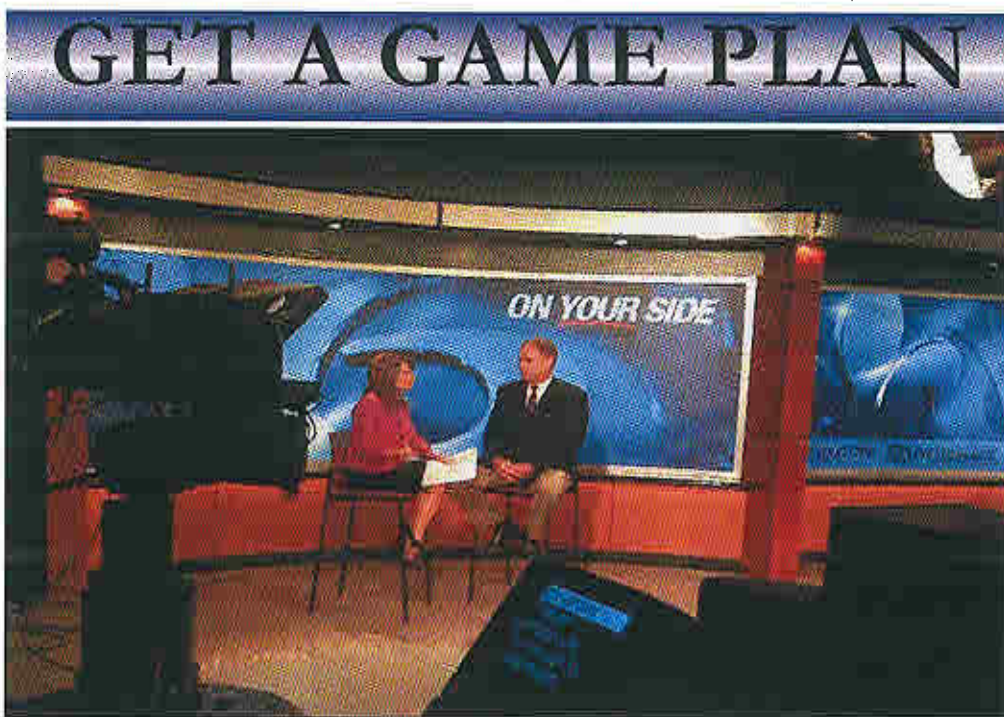
This investment will support the following four key activities: 1) implementation of an outreach campaign for our citizens with emphasis on evacuation and the Get a Game Plan Campaign; 2) outreach to schools and private industry on Improvised Explosive Devices awareness; 3) sustainment of the State's Citizen Corp Program and 4) enhance scenario based planning efforts utilizing the 15 planning scenarios established by DHS

Continued.....

Regionalization

This investment will support the following four key activities: 1) enhance bomb and mitigation teams that can support and be available to deploy in multiple regions; 2) enhancement of the State's Sheriff's and Police Chief's Regional Task Forces; 3) refinement and increased planning efforts to include CI/KR protection at the Regional level, enhancement of regional and parish emergency operation plans and resource management; and 4) establishment of Collapsible US&R and teams and US&R Type III Task Forces.

GOHSEP is still awaiting the actual Grant Award from the Department of Homeland Security. Once GOHSEP receives the actual award letter, the State will have 45 days to award 80% of the total allocation (\$12,888,000) to local agencies. The remaining funding will be retained for State use (\$3,222,000). In addition to the State Homeland Security Grant Program, GOHSEP will also be receiving \$1,284,884 for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant with each of the following four cities receiving \$321,221 to enhance medical response capabilities: Baton Rouge, Metairie, New Orleans and Shreveport. The State is also being awarded \$232,993 to sustain its Citizen Corp Program.



Prior to the storms GOHSEP Director Mark Cooper promoted the "Get a Game Plan" campaign by appearing on television morning shows and holding a number of press conferences with the governor. The campaign is garnering other media attention as well.

The "Get a Game Plan" campaign was mentioned in July 22, 2008 edition of The Advocate. The opinion writer says, "...we applaud the coach, the governor and other officials promoting planning for the 2008 season—hurricane season, that is.

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EDITORIAL: Put preparations on overdrive

In the May 31, 2008 edition of the Times Picayune, an editorial was written on GetaGamePlan.org. The column discusses what forecasters are expecting this hurricane season along with a poll that said most people who live in coastal states don't have disaster plans. No word on how Louisiana residents fared in that poll, but the editorial writer said, "The state also has launched a storm-preparation Web site, www.GetAGameplan.org, and citizens should take advantage of it."

According to the Times Picayune editorial, the poll was commissioned by government agencies and private entities behind the National Hurricane Survival Initiative. The results indicate about six of every 10 respondents did not have a family disaster plan and two-thirds lacked a hurricane survival kit. Thirteen percent also said they might not evacuate ahead of a storm even if they were ordered to do so.

IT'S TAILGATE TIME!!

FIRST ANNUAL GOHSEP AND STATE POLICE TAILGATE EVENT

**Bring Your Team ...Your Sauces and Your Appetite to
HELP US SUPPORT THE UNITED WAY!**

Friday, November 7, 2008

Louisiana State Police/GOHSEP Grounds

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



TAILGATE COOK-OFF EVENT

Register Your Cooking Team of 4

Registration Fee \$50 - Sponsors Encouraged
(Raise as much money for United Way as you can!)

Team Prize Categories

Best Theme

Best Tasting Food

Most Money Raised

Submit Registration Fees to one of the Contacts Listed Below.

Everyone is Invited to Participate in the Tailgate Fundraising Event!

Purchase of a \$10 Tailgate Ticket Includes
Hamburger, Hotdog, and Drinks
Tasting at any of the Tailgate Booths
One Raffle Ticket for the Door Prize Drawings
Additional Raffle Tickets for \$1 Each

Come Out and Enjoy!
Music
Key Note Speakers
Prizes for Raffle

GOHSEP CONTACT

Veronica Moegrove
Communications Director
7867 Independence Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 358-6667 Office
(225) 573-3718 Cell

Contact for Tailgate or Raffle Tickets



LSP CONTACT

Lt. Doug Cain
Public Information Officer
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(225) 925-6202 Office
(225) 921-4502 Cell

Contact for Tailgate or Raffle Tickets

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